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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on November 2, 2007, Applicant(s) respectfully request(s) reconsideration.

Claims 1, 3-26 and 28-35 are now pending in this Application.

Claims 13, 14, 29 and 30 have been indicated as being in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 15, 16 and 31-35 are independent claims and the remaining claims are dependent claims.

In this Amendment, claim(s) 1, 14-16 and 30-35 have been amended and claim(s) 13 and 29 have been cancelled and claim(s) 36 and 37 have been added. Applicant(s) believe that the claim(s) as presented are in condition for allowance. A notice to this affect is respectfully requested.

Claims 13, indicated as allowable in the previous Office Action, has been rewritten in independent form as Claim 1 as it existed in the previous Office Action. Claim 29, indicated as having allowable subject matter, has been amended into claim 16 from which it depends, reciting features similar to amended Claim 1 and therefore submitted as allowable. Further, subject matter from claims 2 and 27, previously cancelled and amended into claims 1 and 16, have been added as claims 36 and 37, respectively.

Claims 15, 31, 34 and 35, reciting features similar to claims 1 and 16, have been amend similarly to recite features of claim 13, indicated as allowable.

Claims 32 and 33 have been amended to recite that the discovery message enabl[es] startup of the different types of agents in a storage area network , and the agent being one of different types of agents in a storage area network (SAN), each of the agents having a type of manageable entity that it is operable to manage, a feature which the Office Action characterizes as argued but not recited in the previous response. This recitation now further distinguishes claims 32 and 33 over the cited references.

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As the above amendments do not present additional features or issues, but merely put the claims in better form for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the claims be passed to issuance.

As the remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 16, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3735.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-9660, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

/CJL/

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